

CityCollegeNews

A newsletter for staff, faculty and alumni of George Brown College

OCTOBER 27, 2004 VOL. 22 NO. 2

College joins Stephen Lewis in fight against HIV/AIDS

Although Stephen Lewis spoke at George Brown College one year ago, the message he delivered on Oct. 20 was as moving and powerful as the first time.

"I have never encountered anything like the pandemic of HIV/AIDS," admitted Lewis. "It is rooting itself in country after country... no country is exempt."

Lewis, who led the UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, was invited back to GBC to speak in celebration of International Education Day at St. Paul's Cathedral where more than 1,000 students, staff and special guests gathered to listen.

He talked about the gender inequality that has put a woman's face to AIDS as women are disproportionately infected. He talked about the disintegration of the productive middle-aged generation leaving grandparents who, after burying their own children, take care of their grandchildren. He talked about the phenomenon of orphans and child-headed households and whole communities being wiped out.

And then he talked about the availability of more affordable generic drugs; prevention and education through music, drama and other creative outlets; politicians and governments that are finally starting to put this on their list of priorities; charities and

non-governmental organizations fundraising to get much-needed drugs to Africa; and the inspiring work of his foundation.

The first time we heard about the Stephen Lewis Foundation was when the intelligent, witty and passionate Lewis visited GBC on Oct. 23, 2003 for Staff Celebration Day.

On that day, he painted a very vivid picture of the real HIV/AIDS pandemic in Africa and around the world and spoke about the things that he was trying to do to make a difference with the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Former college president, Frank Sorochni, made a public commitment that George Brown College would host a future event to raise funds to support Lewis' foundation in its fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa which culminated in the Oct. 20th event.

After hearing the heartbreaking stories of individuals, families and communities torn apart by this horrific infection and the frustrating tale of ignorance and blatant disregard by the global community, many in the audience reached into their pockets and donated to this cause that has gone well beyond worthy status and into crisis-mode.

According to the most recent tally, \$13,500 has been raised from the Oct. 20 plus \$7,000 of private donations raised before Lewis' talk.



Stephen Lewis displays the pin just presented to him by Martha Glenn (background), co-ordinator of the Jewellery Arts program and Sarah Temporale, a Jewellery Arts student. For more photos from the event, please visit the college website.

When Michael Cooke, VP of Academic Excellence, announced our financial commitment, Lewis was visibly touched by our efforts. He was further moved when Martha Glenn, co-ordinator of the Jewellery Arts program and Sarah Temporale, a Jewellery Arts student, presented him with a pin in the shape of Africa with the word "help" engraved across it.

Faculty in the Jewellery Arts program designed the pins and students in the Production Techniques course volunteered to make the pins as a fundraising activity for the Stephen Lewis Foundation, said Glenn.

By asking Stephen Lewis to tell us more about the pandemic and by following through with our commitment to help him in his fight against HIV/AIDS in Africa, it is clear that the George Brown College community believes him when he says, "none of this needs to be."

Snapshot from the United Way Campaign 2004



College president Anne Sado participates in a United Way fundraising activity by getting her blood pressure measured for \$2. Claudia Marsh, a Practical Nursing student in her final semester administered the test which found Sado's blood pressure to be normal. The health checks, held on Oct. 20 and 21, raised \$218. For more photos and event listings, go to <http://insite>.

Update from The Human Rights Office

George Brown College's Human Rights Office has had a busy year implementing new and continued activities designed to increase the college's knowledge and understanding of diversity and equity issues.

Among the many initiatives and accomplishments for 2004 so far:

- College approval of two six-month internships for Aboriginal candidates next school year;
- The development of a bi-monthly newsletter soon to be launched;
- The continuation of the monthly Lunch and Learn Series at St. James and Casa Loma campuses;
- The continuation of free Wen-Do women's self-defense courses;
- The recruitment of students to become Peer Harassment Prevention Trainers to deal with issues of discrimination and harassment and
- The development and facilitation of approximately 50 presentations to students, faculty and staff.

Activities and initiatives to look forward to from the Human Rights Office in 2004 and 2005 include:

- Monday, November 15: an informal discussion with Professor Carl James on Teaching in Culturally Racially and Linguistically Diverse Classes. To register for this session please contact the Staff Development Office at ext. 4661.
- February: Watch for a special high-energy presentation hosted by the Human Rights Office in celebration of Black History Month.
- February 21 - 25: The Canadian Mental Health Association presents an interactive session for faculty and staff on Cross Cultural Mental Health. Check the Staff Development website for registration information

"Human rights education, training and awareness are essential for the promotion and fostering of mutual respect and understanding in our college community," said Dale Hall, a Human Rights Advisor. "Learning about human rights is the first step toward respecting and recognizing these rights."

Submitted by Sharon Kamassah of the Human Rights Office. Please contact her at ext. 4715 or Dale Hall at ext. 4646 for more information on these and other initiatives.

ACET is an asset to Mental Health in the City

Students in the new Assistant Cook Extended Training program made their debut to the college and the public when they prepared the pre-event dinner and afternoon coffee break of the Mental Health in the City forum on Oct. 27.

"The students were excited about their role in the event," said Sheila Mavor Moore, a job coach with the program.

The students cooked for 25 guests at Siegfried's on Oct. 26 and baked enough strudels, puff pastries and éclairs for 100 guests on the day of the forum which featured retired Lt.-Gen. Roméo Dallaire as the keynote speaker, said Moore.

The Assistant Cook Extended Training program, which began in April 2003, is a pilot project aimed at helping survivors of mental illness and/or addiction get back into the workforce.

The 16 students currently enrolled in the two-semester program spent their first term in labs and theory courses. In the kitchen, they learned everything from proper cutting techniques to how to prepare sauces and soups.

Their final semester is spent at work placements in various kitchen settings such as private members' clubs like the National Club, restaurants like Milestones and in hospitals and social service agencies like the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH), Moore said.

The response from industry has been

supportive, said Tony Priolo, project manager. He has received positive feedback from the employers who find their ACET students to be focused and well-prepared for the workplace.

"We talk to each student to make sure we place them in the proper environment," he said. "Most students don't present outward symptoms but if they do show minor signs, we put them in more supportive environments like at CAMH."

Another part of the program's mandate is to help the students find employment for three months after they have completed the program through workshops on résumé and cover letter writing, interview skills, time management and making contacts from work placements, Moore said.

"When they go to make that transition from school to work, we are there to support them," said Moore.

The program administrators are waiting to hear if they have been approved for more funding which they are optimistic about.

In the meantime, they continue to learn the ins and outs of getting this new and unique program off the ground.

"This first year has been a huge learning curve for everyone involved — staff, students and faculty," said Moore.

To find out more about the ACET program, go to <http://www.georgebrown.ca/Marketing/FTCall/access/A744.html>.

Students help to lobby government on violence against women

On Monday, Oct. 4, students in the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate program got a chance to see what it is like to speak out on behalf of those who cannot speak for themselves.

The Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres, headed by Marilyn Oladimeji, president of the coalition and a teacher in the AWCCA program, held a press conference at George Brown College calling the provincial government to provide better protection for women from date rape and other forms of violence.

Oladimeji, who turned the press conference into a class activity for her Feminist Political Action course, was the main spokesperson at the conference.

The press conference was just one part of the OCRC's "Keep my friendships safe. End date rape" campaign. The coalition also distributed postcards to be sent to the McGuinty government asking for more funding, more consultations with sexual assault experts and more opportunities to educate the public, said Oladimeji.

Oladimeji's students helped to organize the conference by using the skills they learned in class such as creating media kits, booking spaces, inviting speakers and guests and generating awareness around the event.

"The conference allowed our students to see what we talk about in class," Oladimeji said. "They implement, participate and see the end result."

One of the outcomes from the conference was an immediate reaction from the provincial government. Community Services Minister Sandra Pupatello said in the Toronto Sun that next month, the province will announce its domestic violence action plan which will include all forms of violence against women despite the plan's name.

"It's a start," said Oladimeji of Pupatello's response. "We support the initiative to address domestic violence however one, narrowly defined form is not enough. If (the politicians) are really committed, they would expand their definitions."

GBC going for a \$95,000 touchdown for United Way

Lorie Shekter-Wolfson and Bob Cox want you to think of fumbles, field goals and first downs when you think of fundrasing this fall.



As the United Way campaign co-chairs Shekter-Wolfson and Cox have chosen football as the theme for this year's campaign.

"Football just seemed to fit. It's something that would be fun and people could identify with," said Cox. "And we just thought about the whole the GBC team."

The drivers of the campaign are so committed to this theme, they even invited Keith Pelley, president of the Toronto Argonauts, to help start off the campaign on Sept. 24 and have recruited Argos season tickets as prizes for donors.

The kickoff event was held at The 519 Church Street Community Centre which is funded by the United Way. Following an introductory tour, members of the United Way Campaign Team gathered together around Pelley who delivered a great pep talk on teamwork and announced key players on this year's roster.

One by one, Pelley called out their names — Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, Bob Cox, Michael Cooke, Colin Simpson, Dale Hall, Shannon Potts and Andrew Malloy — as they formed the \$95,000 lineup.

"The kickoff was a lot of fun," said Shekter-Wolfson. "We really benefited from Pelley's visit because many principles that he talked about with the Argos apply to all teams, including ours."

This year's goal is \$15,000 more than last year but Shekter-Wolfson has no doubts that the college will surpass this number.

"We were able to increase over \$16,000 the year before so there is no reason why we couldn't make another \$15,000 this year," she said.

They are also hoping that 200 college employees will contribute through pledges.

Since the kickoff event, the college has raised \$62,974 and are up to 138 donors. For the most updated figures, please check the Intranet at <http://insite> from any computer within the college.

With about four more weeks of regular season play to go, various areas of the college will be hosting spirit events and

The executive committee from left to right are Lorie Shekter-Wolfson, Bob Cox, Michael Cooke, Colin Simpson, Dale Hall, Shannon Potts and Andrew Malloy.

activities which means more opportunities to donate. Events will include bake sales, fundraising dinners, a silent auction, 50/50 draws and much more. A full schedule of events can also be found on Insite.

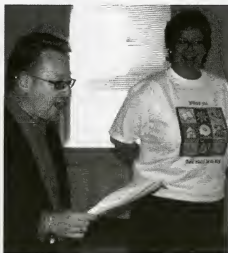
If you haven't yet contributed to the campaign, the co-chairs are strongly encouraging you to get involved.

"If every employee donated the cost of two large Tim Horton's coffees a week, we would surpass our goal," said Cox. "It wouldn't take much if everyone donated just a bit."

Just as George Brown College plays an integral role in the community, the United Way makes an even greater contribution as it funds 148 social service agencies which in turn help abused women, immigrants, young children, the elderly and the homeless.

The United Way is an important part of the college community for several important reasons.

"We could not do without the agencies that receive United Way funding because that's where many of our Community Services students do their placements," said Shekter-Wolfson. "And many staff and students rely on these agencies to help them with issues of elder care, family support, socialization and housing just to name a few."



Toronto Argonauts President Keith Pelley (left) introduces GBC President Anne Sado.

On Oct. 18, Toronto Coun. Pam McConnell visited George Brown College to speak to students in honour of Person's Day — the day that women were legally considered "persons" 75 years ago. About 80 students and staff of the Assaulted Women's and Children's Counsellor/Advocate program and other areas of the college gathered to hear McConnell's talk about the history and meaning of this critical decision, which opened the way for women to participate fully in political life in Canada. McConnell urged women to consider becoming active in local politics and advocacy, emphasizing that

there are many opportunities to participate on boards, task forces, and committees.

Since 2001, the Toronto Community Foundation has been releasing an annual report card on the health of our city called Vital Signs. This year, George Brown College played an important role in the launch of this report on Oct. 8. Not only was the launch held at GBC in the Centre for Financial Services Education but our president Anne Sado delivered the opening address, highlighting how our work is aligned with that of the Vital Signs report. Sado then joined Martin Connell,

Board Chair of the TCF; Anne Swarbrick, President and CEO of the TCF; Mary Deanne Shears, Managing Editor of the Toronto Star and Olivia Chow, a Toronto city councillor, in a panel discussion on the report. The report is available on the TCF's website at www.tcf.ca/vital_signs/vitalsigns2004/index.html.

Staff Development has recently opened a resource centre for staff at St. James campus called The Hub Staff Learning Co-operative. If you've ever had to wait in line at Tim Horton's, you may have noticed it over your shoulder in Room 104. The purpose of The Hub is to support staff and faculty in their jobs by providing a wide range of resources and services. "Staff can come in for anything — if they need help with using Excel, lesson planning or want to know where they can take a leadership course," said Stacey Mauger of Staff Development. Workshops organized and hosted by Staff Development will also be held in The Hub and experts from specific areas of the college, such as LIAD, Educational Resources and Human Rights, will be available throughout the week, Mauger said. Or "people can drop in even just to say 'hi'." So next time you're in line for a coffee, be sure to check out The Hub.



Pam McConnell speaks to a lunchtime crowd at St. James on Oct. 18.



Anne Sado delivers her opening remarks at the launch of Vital Signs, an annual checkup on the health of the city by the Toronto Community Foundation.

U P C O M I N G E V E N T S

Flu Clinics

Be sure to get your free flu shot to help you stay healthy this winter season. The flu clinics schedule is as follows:

Nov. 1	St. James campus	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 2	Casa Loma campus	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 3	Ryerson campus	9 a.m. – noon
Nov. 4	St. James campus	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.; 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Nov. 5	Casa Loma campus	8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Master Chef Series

November 22 to 25

Calling all culinary professionals and foodies!! George Brown College is hosting the ultimate Italian Culinary experience. Four days of meet-and-greets with Toronto's top Italian chefs, demonstrations of their techniques and a gala dinner so scrumptious, you won't soon forget it. The gala dinner will be held on Nov. 25 and will feature the work of the world-renowned culinary couple Chef Massimo Ferrari and Chef Maria Ghiselli from Italy. The dinner is a fundraising event for the Italian Culinary Arts program's externship component where students travel to Italy to learn and work. Tickets for the gala dinner are \$200 per person. To purchase tickets, contact Margo Sheppard at (416) 415-5000, ext. 2405. For more information on the Master Chef Series, go to www.georgebrown.ca/masterchefseries/index.html.

United Way events

Nov. 5	Pot luck lunch and book sale for 500 McPherson
Nov. 9	Book, CD and DVD sale
Nov. 9 to 20	Raffle draw at theatre performances
Nov. 15	50/50 draw for Health Sciences
Nov. 17	Casa Loma Child Care Centre pot luck dinner

Please check <http://insite> for more event listings.

Safe Walk

If you attend evening classes, events or meetings at the college and would like to ensure a safe arrival at your car or subway station, use the Safe Walk service offered at both St. James and Casa Loma campuses.

Hours of operation:

Monday – Thursday	6:30 p.m. – 11:15 p.m.
Friday	6:30 p.m. – 10:30 p.m.

Please call ext. 2721 to arrange for a co-ed team to meet you at any of these locations:

- St. James —
200 King Street East in the main lobby and
300 Adelaide St. E. in the Hospitality Building
- Casa Loma —
142 Kendal Avenue across from security; Davenport Road entrance